

Partner Search Form
Horizon Europe
Health



Date 06/17/2025

Deadline Sept. 2025

CONTACT

Organisation	Virica Biotech Inc.	Department	Corporate Development
Contact person	Gabriel Mancuso	Email	gmancuso@viricabiotech.com
City	Ottawa	Website	https://www.viricabiotech.com
Country	Ontario		

Organisation type

Research organisation type	<input type="checkbox"/> Research Organisation	Is your company a Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SME*)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
	<input type="checkbox"/> University		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Company		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
		Number of employees:	

Your enterprise is an SME if:

- it is engaged in **economic activity**
- it has **less than 250 employees**
- it has either an **annual turnover not exceeding €50M, or an balance sheet total not exceeding €43M**
- it is **autonomous**

For the definition of SMEs, look at: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en

Short introduction of key areas of institute's research:

Virica Biotech has developed a reputation as the leading expert in viral enhancers and is active in the ATMP manufacturing space, including for viral vector-based gene therapy and cell therapy. Manufacturing viral medicines such as gene therapies is a challenge, as human host cells have innate cellular defences that repress viral replication. While this has been critical for the survival of humanity, these defences restrict the ability of producer cells to be used efficiently in the manufacturing process. The result is low yield production processes, high production costs, and ultimately, a gene therapy product so expensive it is inaccessible to patients. So long as innate cellular defences remain unaddressed, viral vector manufacturing will not reach its full potential.

Virica solves this problem with its proprietary VSE technology. Virica develops and commercializes a library of 100+ VSE small molecules that transiently dampen the innate cellular defences of producer cells, increasing manufacturing output by 2-7x. Through increased yields, this innovative technology reduces the cost per dose and makes gene therapy more accessible and affordable. In addition to the VSE product, Virica will bring its design-of-experiment-based upstream process development expertise to any ATMP consortium. Through the simultaneous optimization of numerous upstream inputs, Virica can reduce the time to evaluate all possible upstream conditions from nearly a decade to mere months, thus ensuring the true optimization of any ATMP manufacturing process.

Former participation in an FP European project?

☐ YES ☒ NO

Project title / Acronym: N/A

Activities performed: N/A

Expertise / Commitment offered

Description of your expertise:

Virica Biotech has ample expertise in viral vector process optimization. Its scientific team consists of globally recognized experts in virology with decades of combined experience in developing technologies to improve the efficiency of viral vector production. Virica's contribution to a Horizon Europe consortium will be its innovative approach to optimizing the yield of a viral vector production process through both its VSE technology and DoE capabilities. Any consortium working toward the development of an optimized viral gene therapy manufacturing process would benefit from the addition of VSEs regardless of the baseline yield, as VSEs can be synergistic with other yield enhancing strategies.

Keywords specifying your expertise:

Viral vectors, viral vector enhancers, viral vector manufacturing, viral vector manufacturing enhancers, gene therapy manufacturing enhancers, innate cellular defences, process development, upstream process development, design-of experiment (DoE), virology.

Commitment offered:

☒ Research ☐ Demonstration ☐ Training
☒ Technology ☒ Dissemination ☐ Other:

Interested in participation in project types:

☐ Research & Innovation Action ☒ Innovation Action ☐ EIC Pathfinder

Work Programme research areas: indicate your interest

Health cluster, Excellence (ERC, MSCA), Innovative Europe (EIT), EUROSTAR, EraPerMed, any other relevant research area.

Call topic(s):

HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01-IND-01: Optimizing the manufacturing of Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs)

Do you have other partners for this topic (which partners/country)?

Virica has a wide network of collaborators, both globally and within Horizon Europe member countries. Virica's VSEs have been deployed in over 90+ ATMP production processes worldwide.

Profile of partner sought

Role

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> technology development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> training
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> dissemination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> demonstration	<input type="checkbox"/> other _____

Partner Search Form
Horizon Europe
Health



Country /region

☒ All EU Member States and Affiliated Countries

Expertise required

Virica Biotech is pleased to express interest in joining a Horizon Europe consortium for HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01-IND-01. VSE technology and Virica's expertise can be seamlessly integrated into any project for this call.

I agree with the publication of my contact data:

☒ YES

☐ NO